

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor
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Connecticut Department of Agriculture
February 24, 2015

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT PROPOSING LEGISLATIVE CHANGES AFFECTING LABELING OF FARM PRODUCTS, AGRICULTURAL NOISE- MAKERS, DOG ATTACK CASES

Legislation that would require all agricultural products sold as Connecticut Grown to bear labels specifying the item's origin is among several bills being proposed by the Department of Agriculture for the 2015 session of the General Assembly.

Other proposed bills would change the way the department:

- Regulates agricultural noise-making devices
- Reimburses farmers under the Farmland Restoration Program
- Handles cases involving dog attacks
- Ensures the health of animals being imported into the state

The following is a summation of testimony given on the bills by Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Revczky before the legislature's Environment Committee at the state Legislative Office Building on February 13.

"Our legislative package contains proposals that have the potential to significantly help us grow Connecticut farms – for the benefit of not only our hard-working farm families but all residents of our state," Revczky said in his opening remarks.

S.B. No. 348: "AN ACT CONCERNING THE SALE OF FARM PRODUCTS AS CONNECTICUT-GROWN AND CERTIFICATION FOR "CONNECTICUT-GROWN MARKETS AND RESTAURANTS," would require all farm products for sale at farm-related markets in Connecticut to be identified by a sign or label with the name and complete business address of the farm where the item was grown or produced.

This measure of transparency will allow consumers to better determine the exact origin of what they buy.

"Clearly identifying Connecticut Grown farm products and differentiating them from those grown in other states will strengthen the integrity of the Connecticut Grown brand, bolster consumer confidence in that brand, and empower consumers to better support Connecticut farm families and businesses by making better-informed



Legislation being proposed by the Department of Agriculture would require that all products sold as Connecticut Grown be labeled to specify where the item was produced.

purchasing decisions," Revczky testified.

H.B. No. 6729: "AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF CERTAIN NOISE-MAKING DEVICES FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES," would take steps to ensure that noisemaking devices used for agricultural purposes are being used properly.

The proposal allows the department flexibility regarding whether an on-site inspection is needed to issue a permit for the devices.

It also expands the information required when submitting an application for permits, including an estimate of the potential crop loss as a percentage of the total crop attributable to wildlife damage.

It also requires that any noisemaking device that is permitted be operated according to the recommendations of the manufacturer of the device, and any written conditions stated on the permit as stipulated by the commissioner or his designee. The proposal

also allows the commissioner to consult with additional experts in wildlife damage to crops when determining if the issuance of a permit creates an undue hardship on homeowners or a neighborhood, or suspension or revocation of a permit to use a noise making device has created an undue hardship on a farmer.

The proposal allows for the commissioner or his designee to issue a warning notice for any violation of the section, and establishes a process for a hearing regarding any suspension or revocation of a permit to operate a noise making device if it is appealed within 15 days.

S.B. No. 346: "AN ACT CONCERNING THE FARMLAND RESTORATION AND VACANT LANDS PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE," would expand the items reimbursable to farmers under the Farmland Restoration Program.

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PA LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg. Dressing

LOW HIGH

SLAUGHTER COWS:

breakers 75-80% lean	103.50	108.50
boners 80-85% lean	101.25	106.50
lean 85-90% lean	96.75	102.25

CALVES graded bull

No 1 95-120lbs	356.00	392.50
No 1 80-90lbs	316.50	365.00
No 2 95-120lbs	317.50	365.75
No 2 80-90lbs	333.25	360.00
No 3 80-120lbs	243.25	337.25

SLAUGHTER STEERS

HiCh/Prm2-3	165.75	162.75
Ch1-3	159.25	162.50
Sel1-2	152.00	156.50

SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS

HiCh/Prm2-3	145.00	147.00
Ch2-3	140.50	144.00
Sel1-2	131.00	136.50

SLAUGHTER HEIFERS

HiCh/Prm2-3	163.25	166.50
Ch1-3	155.50	158.00

VEALERS Utility 60-120lb

	67.00	158.00
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SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Non-Traditional Markets:

ch/pr 2-3		
50-60 lbs	258.00	262.00
60-80 lbs	265.00	295.00
80-110 lbs	212.00	230.00
100-130 lbs	170.00	202.00
130-160 lbs	162.00	190.00

SLAUGHTER EWES: 2-3

130-140 lbs Good	94.00	120.00
160-180 lbs Good	92.00	132.00
200-230 lbs Good	84.00	104.00

BUCKS

140-160lbs	n/a	n/a
170-200 lbs	n/a	n/a
230-250lbs, few	96.00	100.00

SLAUGHTER GOATS: Sel.1, by head, est.

40-50 lbs	155.00	175.00
50-60 lbs	190.00	240.00
70-80 lbs	265.00	295.00
80-90 lbs	200.00	225.00

Nannies/Does: 90-140 lbs

	200.00	235.00
Bucks/Billies: 130-140 lbs	217.00	235.00
150-160 lbs	268.00	272.00

PA FEEDER PIG SUMMARY

US # 1-2 20-30 lb	130.00	170.00
30-40 lb	105.00	110.00
40-50 lb	105.00	150.00

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES**NEW ENGLAND GROWN****Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices**

	LOW	HIGH
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5LB	14.00	14.00
APPLE, MCINTOSH, 12/3, USFCY	18.00	18.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10LB	4.50	6.00
PARSNIPS, 25LB	24.00	26.00
POTATOES, RUSSET, 50LB, US1	13.00	13.00
TOMATOES, 25LB, GRHSE, VR	20.00	20.00
TOMS, CHERRY, ONVINE, 5LB, GHS	14.00	15.00

SHIPPED IN

APPLE, CRTLND, NY, 125, US#1	18.00	18.00
APPLE, EMPIRE, NY, 88, XFCY	26.00	26.00
APPLE, HNYCRISP, 80, WAXFCY	78.00	78.00
APPLE, PINKLADY, WAXFCY	64.00	64.00
BEANS, GREEN, FL BU HNDPK	20.00	24.00
BOK CHOY, CA, 50 LB	25.00	28.00
CABBAGE, FL, 50 LB	11.00	14.00
CARROTS, CA, 16/3LB	21.00	23.00
COLLARDS, TX, 24/CTN	24.00	24.00
DANDELION, GA, -3/5BU, 24CT	18.00	20.00
EGGPLANT, FL, 1-1/9BU	18.00	22.00
GRAPEFRUIT, RED, FL #1, 4/5BU	18.00	20.00
LETTUCE, OAKLF, AZ-CA, 2.2LB	10.00	13.00
PEARS, D'ANJOU, WA, 20, US#1	34.00	34.00
PEPPERS, GRN, FL, LG, 1-1/9BU	14.00	16.00
SPINACH, BABY, CA, 4LB	9.50	10.00
STRAWBERRIES, 8-1LB, FL	8.00	12.00
SWEET POTATOES, GA, 40LB	17.00	23.00

USDA WEEKLY/WHOLESALE PRICES**ORGANIC WHOLE CHICKEN**

Per lb

WHOLE FRYER	2.89	2.99
BNLS/SKNLS BREAST	4.99	4.99
BRST TENDERS	6.99	6.99
THIGHS	2.49	2.59

HAY**LANCASTER, PA/PRICE PER TON**

	PREMIUM	GOOD
ALFALFA	240.00-295.00	220.00-235.00
MIXED HAY	225.00-440.00	195.00-225.00
TIMOTHY	260.00-340.00	180.00-220.00
STRAW	105.00-240.00	

**USDA/WEEKLY WHOLESALE
ORGANIC BROWN EGGS**

EX LARGE		
DOZ	2.61	3.60
½ DOZ	1.80	1.95
LARGE		
DOZ	2.30	3.50
½ DOZ	1.71	1.90

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT., February 23, 2015

Bob Calves:	LOW	HIGH
45-60 lbs.	40.00	50.00
61-75 lbs.	60.00	65.00
76-90 lbs.	240.00	250.00
91-105 lbs.	270.00	280.00
106 lbs. & up	290.00	300.00
Farm Calves	310.00	320.00
Starter Calves	40.00	45.00
Veal Calves	155.00	190.00
Open Heifers	140.00	145.00
Beef Heifers	124.00	147.00
Feeder Steers	140.00	150.00
Beef Steers	110.00	148.00
Stock Bulls	155.00	165.00
Beef Bulls	140.00	145.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	n/a	n/a
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Feeder Pigs	n/a	n/a
Sheep	100.00	205.00
Lambs	130.00	170.00
Goats each	90.00	215.00
Kid Goats	100.00	110.00
Canners	up to	113.00
Cutters	114.00	117.00
Utility Grade Cows	120.00	128.00
Rabbits each	5.00	17.50
Chickens each	4.00	40.00
Ducks each	n/a	n/a

NORTHEAST EGG PRICES USDAPer doz. Grade A and Grade A white
in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	1.32	1.49
LARGE	1.27	1.41
MEDIUM	1.15	1.28

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGSPer doz. Grade A brown in
carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	2.07	2.17
LARGE	2.03	2.13
MEDIUM	1.52	1.62

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTIONSold by actual weights; prices quoted by
hundred wt.

48-52	250-300 lbs	40.00	50.00
52-56	250-300 lbs	55.00	61.00
Sows, US1-3	300-500 lbs	20.00	32.00
Boars	200-400 lbs	30.00	48.00
	400-700 lbs	9.00	11.00

FOR SALE

1-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now Connecticut's first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheep breeders, organic farmers and all others, call us for all your insurance needs. 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com.

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com.

3-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. Sonpal's Power Fence 860-491-2290.

4-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm 860-376-2227.

5-R. Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Program, endorsed by the CT Farm Bureau, save up to 23% on your farm insurance and get better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call Marci today at 203-444-6553.

8-R. CT non-GMO grain and corn. Hay and straw. Pleasant View Farms. Louis. 860-803-0675.

19-R. 1988 International Model 1954, 22 foot body, excellent condition. New tires. \$12,000.00. Call Al 203-223-4853.

20-R. Hay for sale, from fertilized fields. \$5.00 per bale, large bales no kickers. 203-453-9865.

MISCELLANEOUS

6-R. Farm/Land specializing in land, farms, and all types of Real Estate. Established Broker with a lifetime of agricultural experience and 40 years of finance. Representing both Buyers and Sellers. Call Clint Charter of Wallace-Tustin Realty (860) 644-5667.

17-R. Free professional advising sessions for farmers - CT Farm Risk Management and Crop Insurance Program. One-on-One confidential sessions with an agri-business professional to discuss farm related issues. Dates available Feb., March, April. www.ctfarmrisk.uconn.edu

SPECIALTY CROP CONCEPT PROPOSALS SOUGHT

The Department of Agriculture is requesting concept proposal for projects that solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops.

Specialty crops are defined by the USDA as fruits and vegetables, dried fruit, tree nuts, maple syrup, honey, horticulture, and nursery crops.

Projects must impact and produce measurable outcomes for the specialty crop industry and/or the public. Submitted projects cannot begin until after January 1, 2015 and must be completed by September 28, 2018. The maximum award is \$75,000.

For more information and complete application guidelines visit the agency's website, www.ctgrown.gov/grants, or contact Jaime Smith at 860-713-2559 or jaime.smith@ct.gov.

Concept proposal applications are due to the Department of Agriculture by 4:00pm, March 6, 2015.

CT SPECIALTY FOOD ASSOC. SEEKING ENTRANTS FOR PRODUCT AWARDS COMPETITION

Send ready-to-sell food or wine products by March 13 to: Connecticut Specialty Food Assoc., 433 S. Main St., West Hartford, CT 06110.

Judging will be March 24 at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville.

For more information call 860-216-4055 or visit: www.ctspecialtyfood.org.

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The program provides grant assistance to restore farmland that has gone out of production.

The proposed bill allows the agriculture commissioner to reimburse a farmer for part of the cost of developing, implementing, and complying with a farm resources management plan or a farmland restoration plan, instead of only for developing a farm resources management plan.

It also would increase the maximum reimbursement for management or restoration plans for certain state and municipal lands.

S.B. No. 870: "AN ACT CONCERNING THE DUTIES OF ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS," would expand the circumstances in which animal control officers (ACOs) may take custody of an animal found to be roaming, injured, neglected, abandoned or mistreated.

As it stands now, ACOs have jurisdiction only over dogs in these circumstances. The bill proposes a minor change to current statutes to reflect that ACOs are responsible for the well-being of all domestic animals.

Another bill outlined by Reviczky was **H.B. No. 6732: "AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPEAL OF RESTRAINT AND DISPOSAL ORDERS ISSUED BY ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS."**

Currently, the agriculture department handles as many as fifteen cases per year involving appeal hearings stemming from a local animal control officer's order to euthanize or restrain dogs involved in attacks on people or other dogs.

Unlike many state agencies, however, the department does not have professional staff dedicated to adjudicating these matters.

Instead, a bureau director or assistant bureau director, with guidance from an assistant attorney general, dedicates an inordinate amount of time to the hearing process, which often involves complex legal and procedural expertise outside of the resources currently available to the department.

The hearing officer issues a proposed decision to the Commissioner, who then issues a final ruling on the dog's fate. "These administrative appeals are almost always emotionally charged, very similar to issues before family court," Reviczky testified.

The parties can appeal the commissioner's final decision to Superior Court, a process that has typically taken many months and that has currently created a significant backlog of cases.

The bill seeks to transfer the entire appeal process to Superior Court, alleviating the significant time and resource constraints faced by the agriculture department, and ensuring that the process is handled with the necessary legal and procedural expertise.

Another related department proposal, **H.B. No. 6727, "AN ACT CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF HEARING OFFICERS BY THE COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE,"** would allow the Commissioner additional options when designating hearing officers for proceedings within the agency.

Currently, other state agencies have the authority to work with law schools, law firms and law clinics to assist in conducting the administrative appeal process. The proposal would allow the agriculture department to utilize similar resources.

It also would remove the requirement that the commissioner serve as final decision maker in administrative hearings, except for hearing an appeal for reconsideration or modification of a

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NEW FARM SAFE GRANTS AVAILABLE

The Department of Agriculture has created a new State Assistance for Enhancements (SAFE) Grant is to provide matching funds to Connecticut farmers and farmer cooperatives.

The grants are designed to improve and diversify production, harvesting, processing, and manufacturing of agricultural farm products in accordance with the anticipated Food Safety Moderation Act (FSMA), and to expand venues and other markets in which a majority of products sold are grown in the state.

The purpose is to provide financial support to farmers to enhance their agricultural operations in accordance with anticipated FSMA regulations to increase profits and to assist farmers seeking to diversify, transition into new production areas, and/or expand existing production in accordance with anticipated FSMA regulations;

Farmers and farmer cooperatives are eligible to apply. Projects must focus on food safety enhancements, and priority projects are included in the guidelines. These are competitive grants are based primarily on the submitted business plan.

Award maximum is \$25,000 and there a 50-percent cash match requirement. Projects must be completed within one year.

Questions and applications should be directed to Jaime Smith at jaime.smith@ct.gov or 860-713-2559. Deadline is 4 p.m. on March 6, 2015. Applications are accepted via email only.

Guidelines can be found at <http://www.ct.gov/doag/cwp/view.asp?a=1366&Q=559564> or at www.ctgrown.gov/grants

NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR ANNUAL AG JOURNALISM AWARDS

The Connecticut Agricultural Information Council (CAIC) is seeking nominations for its annual recognition of outstanding coverage of Connecticut agriculture by the news media in calendar year 2014.

Nominations may be made by anyone in Connecticut with an interest in agriculture, including the entrants themselves. Deadline for nominations is March 2, 2015 and must be made on the official CAIC form, which is available by calling 203-261-9067.

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final decision.

The agency's final proposal this session, **H.B. No. 6728: "AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS TO ANIMAL IMPORTER RECORDS REQUIREMENTS,"** would assist the agriculture department in knowing specifically when a dog or cat was adopted by the importer.

That information would give the department the opportunity to ensure that the animal was examined by a Connecticut veterinarian within 15 days of purchase or adoption, as required by current law.

The change also would allow the department to analyze how many imported animal adoptions in Connecticut are associated with people entering from neighboring states to purchase animals in order to circumvent their home state animal importation laws.

Any questions related to the department's legislative package may be directed to George Krivda, Chief of Staff and Legislative Program Manager, at George.Krivda@ct.gov or 860-713-2573.

CHICKENS SEIZED IN COCKFIGHTING OPERATION EUTHANIZED TO PREVENT FURTHER SUFFERING

Inspectors from the Department of Agriculture humanely euthanized 49 roosters seized in a suspected cockfighting operation in East Windsor last Saturday that was the subject of a state police raid.

All of the birds had been mistreated in preparation for the event, and others were injured during fights on Saturday. They were euthanized to prevent any further suffering, and because they presented a danger to people and to other birds, said Dr. Bruce Sherman, a veterinarian and Director of the agriculture department's Bureau of Regulation and Inspection, which carried out the euthanization.

Four other birds that had already been in fights by the time police arrived were found dead at the scene.

There were 108 people at the cockfighting site behind a car dealership on Route 5 when a team of state police raided it. More than \$100,000 in suspected gambling receipts was seized, as well as a firearm and implements of cockfighting.

Police arrested 45 subjects on site and charged each with 53 counts animal cruelty and one count of Professional Gambling. They were processed and released on \$5,000 bonds to appear in Enfield Superior Court. Arrest warrants will be sought for the rest of the people found on site.

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